In the Claims:

1 (currently amended) A turbo decoding system, comprising:

a decoder module, using an adaptive abort criterion; and

means to provide said ~~wherein the~~ adaptive abort criterion ~~is~~ based on the mean and the variance of partially decoded extrinsics.

2. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the abort criterion is generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the extrinsics.

3. (currently amended) An iterative decoder system for a recursive systematic encoder, comprising:

a decoder module~~, wherein~~ for providing estimates of data symbols ~~are~~ generated through an iterative decoding process;

circuitry including a comparison algorithm for comparing a derived quality attribute of the generated data symbol estimates to a predetermined threshold~~,; wherein~~ said quality attribute ~~is~~ based on the mean and the variance of the estimates of the data symbols; and

~~wherein~~ circuitry for aborting decoding ~~is aborted based~~ on a ~~the~~ comparison result.

4. (previously presented) The system of Claim 3, wherein the quality attribute is generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates.

5. (currently amended) A method for determining an abort criterion in turbo decoding, comprising the steps of:

generating extrinsic values;

for each extrinsic value, generating a signal-to-noise ratio computed from the mean and the variance of the extrinsic values;

comparing the generated signal-to-noise ratio to a threshold signal-to-noise ratio; and

aborting based on a ~~the~~ comparison result~~;~~

~~wherein said signal-to-noise ratio is computed from the mean and the variance of the extrinsics~~.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the signal-to-noise ratio is computed by dividing the mean of the extrinsic values by the variance of the extrinsic values.

7. (currently amended) A method for determining an abort criterion in iterative decoding, comprising the steps of:

generating estimates of data symbols;

generating a quality attribute based on the mean and variance of the estimates;

comparing the quality attribute to a predetermined threshold; and

aborting the turbo decoding based on a ~~the~~ comparison result.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the quality attribute is generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates.

9. (previously presented) A method for determining an abort criterion in iterative decoding, comprising the steps of:

generating estimates of data symbols after an iteration substep;

measuring the mean of the estimates;

measuring the variance of the estimates;

generating a quality attribute based on the mean and the variance;

comparing the quality attribute to a predetermined threshold; and

aborting the turbo decoding based on a ~~the~~ comparison result.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the quality attribute is generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates.